4% excise levy on the ground that these are consumed by the weaker sections of the society.

(c) Having regard to these representations, the Government have exempted parts and accessories of cycles and cycle rickshaws from the 4% excise levy with effect from 27th April, 2002.

Top tax defaulters

4313. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax, excise tax and other commercial tax due against top 120 industrial/commercial units of the country by the year ending 2000-2001;

(b) the reasons for such dues against these industrial units;

(c) whether Government propose to impost penalty and also take stringent action against these units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when dues are likely to be collected from these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE. N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The income tax dues outstanding against the top 120 companies amounted to Rs. 18862 crore (approx) as on 31.3.2001. Commercial taxes is a State subject. The Central Government does not maintain information in respect of State taxes. Information in respect of central excise duties is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) the reasons for non-recovery of outstanding taxes include tax demands being in dispute, cases getting held up in appeals, stay against recovery of tax granted by appellate authorities and courts, and applications pending before the Settlement Commission or the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

(c) and (d) Penalty under section 221 of the Income Tax Act is levied wherever applicable in case of default by the assessee in paying the tax. The Department also takes all possible stringent measures to recover the arrear tax as provided in the Income Tax Act. The measures include, *inter-alia*, issuance of statutory notice under Section 220(2), charging of interest and levy of penalty for non-payment of dues, attachment of bank accounts and attachment and/or sale of movable and immovable properties of the defaulters.

(e) Collection of dues is a continuous process involving the use of various statutory provisions. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties, etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are made by higher authorities on a regular basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

Foreign aid allocation

4314. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the recent World Bank study which appeared in the National Hearld of March 13, 2002 saying that foreign aid allocations since the end of cold war has made it more effective in poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, the extent of foreign aid received through World Bank and otherwise, which has gone into poverty alleviation programmes, schemes and project-wise details of such foreign aid since the end of cold war; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for effective appropriation of such aid to poverty alleviation programmes and for preventing diversification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Poverty eradication is the primary goal of all external assistance and all projects are undertaken with this primary objective in mind. The details of the Foreign aid received for specific poverty alleviation programmes are at Statement *(See* below*)*.

(c) All measures are taken to ensure effective appropriation of external aid to poverty alleviation programmes and for preventing any diversification. These include:—

- Audit of expenditures made of project authorities in mandatory.
- Regular monitoring of projects by the Administrative/Finance Ministry.
- Government are ensuring adequate provisining for externally aided projects, streamlining of procurement procedures, review with